

## Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 /003 R

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DRAFTED BY USOAS:JJJOVA:MJ

8/23/73 EXT. 29376

APPROVED BY USOAS:JJJOVA

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P 232250Z AUG 73

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MEXICO PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 165082

FOLLOWING SENT SAN SALVADOR TEGUCIGALPA INFO GUATEMALA  
MANAGUA SAN JOSE USCINCSO FROM SECSTATE WASHDC 20 AUG 73:

QUOTE C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 165082

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, OAS, HO, ES

SUGJ: HONDURAS/EL SALVADOR--COMMITTEE OF SEVEN HEARS FOREIGN  
MINISTERS

REF: STATE 155574

1. COMMITTEE OF SEVEN MET MORNING OF AUGUST 20 WITH FOREIGN  
MINISTERS OF EL SALVADOR AND HONDURAS. EL SALVADOR FONMIN  
BORGONOVO SPOKE FIRST, OFFERING GOES VERSION OF INFORMAL  
TALKS HELD BETWEEN TWO GOVTS SINCE LAST APRIL MEETING WITH  
COMMITTEE. HE STATED THAT FONMINS HAD NOT HAD PERSONAL  
TALKS, BUT HAVE BEEN IN COMMUNICATION BY TELEPHONE AND  
THROUGH THIRD PARTIES. RELATIONS BETWEEN MILITARY AT  
FRONTIER ALSO FRIENDLY. GOES NOW FEELS IT IS PROPI-  
TIOUS MOMENT FOR "DRAWING UP TREATY OF FRIENDSHIP" WHICH  
WOULD SET FORTH PROCEDURES TOWARD NORMALIZATION OF RELATIONS.

2. HONDURAS FONMIN BATRES AGREED WITH BORGONOVO'S VERSION  
AND ADDED THAT, PERHAPS, AIMS OF INFORMAL TALKS HAVE BEEN  
TOO AMBITIOUS, HENCE CONVERSATIONS HAVE NOT PRODUCED MEAN-  
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INGFUL RESULTS. ALSO SINCE TALKS HAVE BEEN AT INFORMAL

LEVEL, THEY HAVE HAD NO AGENDA AND NO RECORD HAS BEEN KEPT. THUS WHEN PARTICIPANTS CHANGE, THEY MUST START ANEW. HE SUGGESTED THAT THERE SHOULD NOW BE FORMALIZED TALKS BUT FIRST RULES OF GAME MUST BE ESTABLISHED, I.E., WHO, WHEN, WHERE, ETC. WHEN QUERIED BY COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN SEVILLA SACASA AS TO HIS SUGGESTIONS FOR SUCH PROCEDURES, BATRES

EXPRESSED HIS DESIRE TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF PRESENCE OF HIS SALVADORAN COUNTERPART TO MEET WITH HIM AND PERHAPS WITH CHAIRMAN SEVILLA SACASA TO DRAW UP WORKING PLAN FOR FORMAL TALKS.

3. BORGONOVO RESPONDED BY SUGGESTING THAT TWO FONMINS MEET ALONE AS FIRST STEP. BATRES AGREED BUT SUGGESTED THAT AS SECOND STEP THE FONMINS MEET WITH CHAIRMAN PRESENT AND AS THIRD STEP A MEETING WITH ENTIRE COMMITTEE. SCHEDULE ESTABLISHED PROVIDING FOR PRIVATE MEETING BETWEEN TWO DELEGATIONS DURING LUNCH AND AFTERNOON HOURS, WITH SUBSEQUENT MEETING TO BE ATTENDED BY SEVILLA SACASA AS CHAIRMAN AT SIX P.M. COMMITTEE OF SEVEN TO MEET AGAIN ON MORNING OF 21ST TO HEAR RESULTS OF THIS AFTERNOON'S PRIVATE MEETINGS AND IN HOPES OF BEING ABLE TO ANNOUNCE AGREED ON PLAN OF ACTION.

4. COMMENT: WHILE BOTH GOVTS SEEMED ANXIOUS TO FORMALIZE TALKS, HONDURAS, BY PUSHING FOR THE SETTING OF GROUND RULES, APPEARED THE BETTER PREPARED TO ELEVATE CONVERSATIONS. ROGERS UNQUOTE RUSH

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PFOR, SUGJ, HONDURAS/EL SALVADOR--COMMITTEE OF S, MINISTERS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 23 AUG 1973  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** golinofr  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1973STATE165082  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** JJJOVA:MJ  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** RR  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** n/a  
**From:** SECSTATE WASHDC  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1973/newtext/t19730818/aaaaanef.tel  
**Line Count:** 89  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE  
**Office:** ORIGIN ARA  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:**  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 73 STATE 155574  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** golinofr  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 23 JAN 2002  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <23-Jan-2002 by martinml>; APPROVED <01 MAR 2002 by golinofr>  
**Review Markings:**

Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
30 JUN 2005

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** n/a  
**TAGS:** HO, ES, OAS  
**To:** MEXICO  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005